

Council Members 1979-80

Rapelje, Douglas H.
Chairman

Welland

Upshall, Allan
Vice-chairman

North York

Johnston, Florence
Vice-chairman

Thunder Bay

Earhart, Leslie

Scarborough

Enns, Betty Lyn

Kitchener

Epstein, Norman

Downsview

Goodin, Richard

Oakville

Howe, Laura

Dryden

Johnstone, Thomas

Ottawa

Kendall, Maxwell

London

Kinsella, Patricia

Aurora

Lanteigne, Cecile

Kapuskasing

Mennill, Joe L.

Aylmer

McCreedy, Margaret

Toronto

Merry, George

Kingston

Naldrett, Evelyn

Kingston

Rehill, James

Stouffville

Withrow, John

Toronto

Elizabeth Szalowski, Executive Officer

Don MacGillivray, Administrative Assistant

Ontario
Advisory Council
on Senior Citizens



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promoting and
developing
opportunities
for self-help
for the aged



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Who we are...

The Ontario Advisory Council on Senior Citizens was established by an Order-in-Council by the Government of Ontario in April 1974. It is a provincial body whose mandate calls for: the promotion and development of opportunities for self-help for the aged; and reviewing the current policies which have a bearing on aging and the economy. The Council reports to the Government through the Provincial Secretary for Social Development.

The eighteen member body is composed of men and women from various age groups, professions, life-styles, interests and geographic locations across Ontario.

How we operate...

While the Council meets at regular intervals and all recommendations are discussed and passed by the general membership, much of the work is done in committees and task groups. The basic committees deal with education, income maintenance, housing and community services and health. The Council has no funding power nor is it involved in grant distribution. Its primary function is to relay the opinions and suggestions made by senior citizen organizations, community agencies, associations and individuals concerned with the aged in this province. The Council also receives input from government ministries and there is a mutual consultation process.

The Council makes every effort to go out into the community as often as possible to learn about an area's specific achievements, priorities and concerns as well as provide an opportunity to share information and views.

Our Concerns...

They encompass the total area of seniors' lives – their achievements, their contributions, their needs and their problems.

While we agree that the community and government have to assist seniors in many ways, we also strongly believe in the responsibility of *self-help* by the aged for their satisfaction and advantage as members of society as a whole. All rights and privileges are accompanied by responsibilities, regardless of age.

Our Goals...

The goal of the Council is to help create a province in which it is possible to grow old with dignity and a sense of usefulness; where services are adequate and varied, and include the element of choice in all facets of living; where people have concern for each other and where rejection is no longer acceptable.

Communications...

The Council should not speak in isolation. It should be the voice of some 780,000 seniors residing in Ontario. We must be aware of every new thrust of government, organizations and individual people, react to all views and suggestions, weigh them in the light of the total community and strive for implementation of changes beneficial to the majority of our population.

Newsletter...

Since July 1975 the Council's quarterly newsletter "Especially for Seniors" has been mailed automatically to all Ontario residents 65 years of age and over. The newsletter developed as a natural outcome of the need to share information about events and policies of particular interest to seniors. The main purpose of the newsletter is to provide a two-way communication with seniors. Responses received help the Council to identify issues and trends affecting the lives of seniors.

Some Facts...

Canada's population is growing older. The 1976 census counted more than two million people in the 65 year and over age group. This trend is likely to continue and by the year 2001 there will be three to three and a half million seniors. One-third of the elderly live in Ontario. Only 8.7% of the elderly live in collective housing such as homes for the aged, nursing homes and other institutions.

The elderly will represent a larger fraction of the voting population. They will command more public attention and will exert a stronger influence on economic, political and social policies in the future.



Ontario
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